

Online National Seminar on

Elementary Education in India

Organized by -

Department of Elementary Education

Mata Sundri College for Women (University Of Delhi)

Date of the Event - 24th September, 2021 (Friday)

Time- 02:00PM- 4:00PM

Online Platform - Zoom meetings

Speakers - Dr. Indrajeet Dutta (Assistant Professor, MANUU) ;

Dr. Saurabh Kumar (Assistant professor , RIE, Bhopal)

Number of participants- Total 140 participants

(136 students and 4 faculty members)

Feedback of participants-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uq9bYcpysEXNX6uL5uFqpfQBWK4nYbucovj_6bODoL4/edit?resourcekey#gid=5740870

Report

On 24th September, 2021, an insightful and memorable online National Seminar on “**Elementary Education in India**” was organised by the Department of Elementary Education, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi. The Co-convenor, Ms. Divya Sharma opened the session with a brief introduction about the seminar and invited the Convenor Dr. Ravneet Kaur who proceeded the session with a warm welcome to the speakers and participants. She presented a brief concept note of the seminar in her address. The principal, **Prof . Harpreet Kaur** enlightened the participants with her insightful welcome address. She extended her warm wishes to the organisers and welcomed the speakers to the forum. She deliberated upon the pertinent issues related to elementary education in the contemporary India, including Mid-Day Meal and quality education. A relation was drawn between education and the importance of nutrition to support it. She encouraged the participants to reflect on if we are focusing on quality or just the quantity, be it the schools or the resources.

Dr. Indrajeet Dutta presented his lecture on *Policy Perspectives in Elementary Education* beginning with the historical background of elementary education in India wherein he highlighted various aspects peculiar to the policy changes from 1990 to 2010 and then finally in 2019. The constitutional and international commitment continuously focuses on the need to educate the children of age group 6 to 14 years as these years serve as a prerequisite for proper and effective Higher education. Yet even after 70 years of these commitments, we failed to deliver the basic education to the masses. He further highlighted the significance of elementary education for the young population and how it also conditions the economic growth of a country and provides a sustainable life. Emphasis was given to the need for quality teachers and proper infrastructure. With the help of statistical data, the speaker deliberated upon the significant changes in the graph of enrolment, dropouts and teacher pupil ratio from 1990's to 2010 and then in 2019-20. Further the speaker talked about the vision and provisions of NEP 2020 where the emphasis has been placed on the need to use indigenous ways of learning and knowledge sharing and the methods for inclusion of sports, art, craft that would help us to achieve a strong foundation where curriculum, book and pedagogy would be based on Indian ethos. Towards the end he placed special emphasis on the use of mother tongue as the medium of communication and the benefit of multilingualism for the learner. In his opinion we need an equitable and inclusive education system which would help to reduce the dropout and strengthen our education system.

Second speaker, **Dr. Saurabh Kumar**, in his session on *Emerging Pedagogical Practices at Elementary Level* touched upon a very significant yet unattended issue of the education system which is the infrastructure and pedagogy used in schools. Having an experience of almost 50 lectures in Nishtha Program, he reflected well upon the need of quality teachers. He talked about the current situation of schools by taking into account the conventional methods used by the teachers in the classroom. He emphasized the significance of the development of

4C's in the learner namely communication, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. In his opinion and as mentioned in the NCF-2005, these skills could aid the holistic development of the learner. Furthermore, he discussed the essence of the development of life skills and the significance of art as a pedagogical tool given that the art is one such component of life which attracts the learners attention and it subsumes most of their milieu.

Towards the end, a brief interaction session was held where participants were free to clarify their queries and the observations made during the seminar. The speakers responded with enthusiasm and beautifully sufficed it with the help of example. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Ms. Divya Sharma (co-convenor). Gratitude was extended towards the speakers and participating students and the very insightful seminar concluded with a promise of assembling such engaging and enlightening sessions in the future.
